

REMARKS

Claims 36 and 38-42 are pending in the application. Claim 36 has been amended. Support for the Amendment can be found at least at page 10, lines 10-14 of the application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,745,032 to Morrison. The Examiner apparently argues that Morrison teaches a tile comprising a coating of 35-70 wt% silicon dioxide and 20-40 wt% aluminum oxide. The Examiner apparently further argues that Morrison discloses the use of the construction material in traffic ways, which is inclusive of flooring materials. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 36 recites a tile floor surface that has a modified structure, wherein the modification results from removing a substantial amount of softer components of the tile, while leaving a substantial amount of hard components of the tile in place, so as to produce a tile floor surface having a coefficient of friction comparable to that of a new tile. This tile is no longer a new tile, but has a modified structure.

Applicants submit that Morrison does not disclose a floor surface having tiles with the claimed modified structure, wherein softer components have been removed from a tile while leaving harder components in place. As disclosed in the application, such a tile is improved in its slip-resistant characteristics. Applicants submit, therefore, that claim 36 is patentable over Morrison at least for this reason. Since claims 38-42 each